

## REMARKS

As a preliminary matter, the Examiner is thanked for the cooperation and assistance given during the personal interview of June 30, 2005.

Claims 1-10, 12-17, and 20-25 are pending in this application, claims 22-25 having been added.

The amendments to claims 12 and 21 and the subject matter of new claims 22-25 are supported throughout the original disclosure, including at page 12, lines 7-15 and 24-29, page 13, lines 19-20 and Figures 4 and 5. Claim 12 further has been amended to correct a minor typographical error. Applicant respectfully requests approval and entry of the amendments and new claims.

Claims 1-10, 12-17, 20, and 21 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 3,802,416 to Cazalis in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,997,399 to Szatmary.

Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection.

As set forth in independent claims 1 and 20, the claimed containment assembly includes barrier means that extend from the upper surface of the powder handling booth to at least the floor on which the operator stands. As further set forth in claim 1, the lower edge of the barrier means is untethered.

Applicant respectfully submits that neither Cazalis nor Szatmary discloses a barrier means extending to the floor on which the operator outside of the processing zone stands. During the personal interview, the Examiner pointed to Figure 6 of Cazalis as allegedly disclosing a barrier means, i.e., wall 1, having a lower edge that is untethered. However, a close inspection of Figure 6 shows that the lower edge of wall 1 is spaced apart from the floor on which the operator stands. In no way does the alleged barrier means, i.e., wall 1, extend

all the way to the floor on which the operator outside the processing zone stands, as recited in the above claims 1 and 20. Szatmary does not cure this deficiency. The powder handling booth 10 of Szatmary has barrier means terminating at about the operator's waist, and is not designed or sized to admit an operator.

For these reasons alone, the rejection against claims 1 and 20, and claims 2-10, 12-17, and 21-25 which depend therefrom and include all of the distinguishing features thereof, should be withdrawn.

Applicant also respectfully disagrees with the Examiner's allegation that a person of ordinary skill in the art would have been motivated to combine Cazalis and Szatmary. The Examiner's attention is directed to column 5, lines 24-35 of Cazalis, which disclose that the enclosure has a lower entry pipe 14 and an upper exit pipe 15 respectively situated at the bottom and top of the enclosure. The upward air flow path of Cazalis is opposite to the downward air flow path of Szatmary. Further, Applicant also points out that Cazalis and Szatmary employ air flow for different reasons. The upward air flow of Cazalis is designed to provide ventilation to the patient located in the enclosure, whereas Szatmary employs a forced downward airflow for controlling particle flow in an isolated air booth free of occupants. In view of the different uses and objects for which the booths of Cazalis and Szatmary are designed, one of ordinary skill would not have been motivated to modify Cazalis to employ the operational parameters of Szatmary.

Additionally, claims 12 and 21, as amended, recite that the barrier means has a lower edge of excess flexible material resting directly on the floor on which the operator stands. At the personal interview, the Examiner alleged that the "excess of flexible material" recited in claims 12 and 21 is depicted in Fig. 6 of Cazalis, which shows a slight dip (or alleged excess) of wall 1 to the left of the end of lead line of reference numeral 32. In response, Applicant

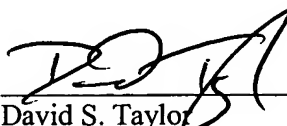
respectfully submits that the dip of wall 1 is supported by frame 7 and spaced from the floor, and therefore does not rest directly on the floor.

Claims 22 and 24 recite that the portion of the floor on which the operator stands is situated outside of the processing zone, and that the barrier means extends to the portion of the floor on which the operator stands outside of the processing zone. Claims 23 and 25 depend from claims 22 and 24, respectively, and add that the lower edge comprises excess flexible material resting directly on the portion of the floor on which the operator is permitted to stand. Applicant respectfully submits that neither Cazalis nor Szatmary discloses barrier means extending to the portion of the floor on which the operator stands or excess flexible material of the barrier means resting directly on the portion of the floor on which the operator is permitted to stand.

For these reasons, Applicant respectfully submits that the Section 103 rejection is misplaced, and respectfully requests reconsideration and withdrawal of the same.

If, after reviewing the above amendments and remarks, the Examiner has any questions, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned, by telephone, to schedule an interview to address such issues.

Respectfully submitted,

  
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David S. Taylor  
Reg. No. 39,045

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BERENATO, WHITE & STAVISH, LLP  
6550 Rock Spring Drive  
Suite 240  
Bethesda, Maryland 20817  
Telephone: (301) 896-0600  
Facsimile: (301) 896-0607